

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A production method for a solar battery module, comprising:

utilizing a production apparatus including a positioning belt and a heating belt located adjacent each other in a transferable manner and a press belt extending over the positioning belt and the heating belt in opposed relation to the positioning belt and the heating belt such that the press belt overlaps at least a portion of the positioning belt, the positioning belt having a vacuum suction hole, and the heating belt having no suction hole, and adapted to control the heating belt and the press belt at predetermined temperatures;

positioning a plurality of solar battery cells and interconnectors required for connection of the solar battery cells on an upstream portion of the positioning belt and transporting the solar battery cells and the interconnectors to a downstream portion of the positioning belt while holding the solar battery cells and the interconnectors in a properly positioned state by the action of the vacuum suction hole;

transferring the solar battery cells and the interconnectors transported to the downstream portion of the positioning belt onto the heating belt while holding the solar battery cells and the interconnectors between the positioning belt and the press belt; and

holding the solar battery cells and the interconnectors transferred onto the heating belt between the heating belt and the press belt and soldering the interconnectors to the solar battery cells while transporting the solar battery cells and the interconnectors.

2. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least a surface of the positioning belt is composed of a resin.

3. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production apparatus to be used for a solar battery module production method as recited in claim 1, the production apparatus comprising:

a positioning belt and a heating belt located adjacent each other in a transferable manner; and

a press belt extending over the positioning belt and the heating belt in opposed relation to the positioning belt and the heating belt,

wherein the heating belt and the press belt are each controlled at a predetermined temperature, the press belt overlaps at least a portion of the positioning belt, the positioning belt has a vacuum suction hole, and the heating belt has no suction hole.

4. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein at least a surface of the positioning belt is composed of a resin.

5. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the production apparatus further comprises at least one lower resilient member which biases the heating belt towards the press belt and at least one upper resilient member which biases the press belt toward the heating belt.

6. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 5, wherein one or both the at least one upper and at least one lower resilient members are leaf springs.

7. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising: at least one lower resilient member which biases the heating belt towards the press belt; and at least one upper resilient member which biases the press belt towards the heating belt.

8. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein one or both the at least one upper and at least one lower resilient members are leaf springs.

9. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 5, wherein a number of upper resilient members is less than a number of lower resilient members.

10. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein a number of upper resilient members is less than a number of lower resilient members.

11. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the production apparatus further comprises a lower heating block disposed on a back side of the heating belt and an upper heating block disposed on a back side of the press belt, the upper and lower heating blocks adapted to heat solar cells of the solar battery module; and

a lower cooling block disposed on the back side of the heating belt and an upper cooling block disposed on a back side of the press belt, the upper and lower cooling blocks adapted to cool the solar cells of the solar battery module.

12. (Previously presented) The solar battery module production apparatus as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:

a lower heating block disposed on a back side of the heating belt and an upper heating block disposed on a back side of the press belt, the upper and lower heating blocks adapted to heat solar cells of the solar battery module; and

a lower cooling block disposed on the back side of the heating belt and an upper cooling block disposed on a back side of the press belt, the upper and lower cooling blocks adapted to cool the solar cells of the solar battery module.

Claims 13-24 (Canceled)

25. (New) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the heating belt and the press belt is a metal belt.

26. (New) The solar battery module production apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein at least one of the heating belt and the press belt is a metal belt.

27. (New) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the solar battery cells and the interconnectors transported to

the downstream portion of the positioning belt are held between the positioning belt and the press belt, and successively transferred from a downstream end of the positioning belt onto the heating belt while being pressed by the press belt.

28. (New) The solar battery module production method as set forth in claim 27, wherein one part of each solar battery cell is held between the heating belt and the press belt while another part of the solar battery cell is held between the positioning belt and the press belt, when the solar battery cell is transferred from the positioning belt onto the heating belt.